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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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March 23, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 – The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 – The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for DeSoto County, MS – Rapid DNA System in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Desoto County Sheriff's Department, located at 3091 Industrial Drive West, Hernando, MS 38632.

This is a good use of taxpayers' funds because of the public safety nexus. The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office would like to purchase a Rapid DNA System and will invite local law enforcement jurisdictions to participate. This will allow better access to process DNA for agencies in the region as opposed to using the crime lab which has a lengthy backlog for most cases and, at times, will not accept a property crime case for processing. This technology has been developed and approved under FBI guidance to process DNA within 90 minutes. Law enforcement agencies across the country have started using Rapid DNA to make quick and accurate identifications that will drastically improve public safety and save time and resources, catch more criminals and exonerate those wrongly-accused. Overall, this project is a good use of taxpayer funds due to the current backlog of cases. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trent Kelly'.

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

TK/smr